1899.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the Brandon and Byshottles Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

The population of your district is still increasing, but it is impossible to state what it really is, it being so long since the last census. It is probably about 18,000, but for the purpose of this report I will estimate it by adding the difference between the births and deaths since that time. At the end of the year 1899, I thus estimate it to be 16,830, and will calculate the percentages in this report on the estimated population in the middle of the year, viz., 16,700. The figures will again appear higher than they really are.

253 Deaths were registered during the year, being a decrease of 16 compared with the number in 1898. The deaths were at the rate of 15·149 per thousand, being lower than in former years, and also lower than the death-rate for the Administrative County of Durham, which was 18·8 per thousand. The deaths under 5 years of age were at the rate of 7·425, and those over 5 years of age at the rate of 7·724.

The Zymotic Death-rate was 1·01, and lower than in previous years. It is also lower than that for the County, which was 2·35. Infant mortality-rate 186. This was also lower than in 1898, but slightly higher than the infant mortality-rate for the County, which was 179. The high rate is due to the number of premature births and to the number of deaths from diseases of the digestive organs, the result of injudicious feeding.

The Phthisis Death-rate was ·77 per thousand, that for the County being 1·14; Respiratory Diseases Death-rate, excluding Phthisis 2·09 per thousand, that for the County being 3·33.

13 Inquests were held, and 8 deaths were uncertified.

520 Births were registered during the year, being 15 less than in the previous year. 274 were males and 246 were females. The births were at the rate of 31·13 per thousand, and was the lowest during the past eight years. It was also below the rate for the County, which was 35 per thousand. The natural increase of the population was 267, or at the rate of 15·09 per thousand.

94 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified; for the seven preceding years the numbers were 92, 89, 142, 318, 376, 323, and 200.

Of the 94 cases 37 were Scarlet Fever, 26 were Erysipelas, 26 were Typhoid Fever, 3 were Membranous Croup, 1 was Diphtheria, and 1 was Relapsing Fever. There was a decrease in the number of Scarlet Fever cases, but an increase in the number of Typhoid cases. These occurred mainly at Brandon Colliery, but the County Medical Officer and myself, who inspected the infected premises, were unable to find any definite cause for them. (See Table B annexed to this report).

As in former years, your Inspector and I visited most of the infected premises. Disinfectants were supplied, and instructions given to prevent the spread of the disease.

50 houses were stoved after the removal or recovery of the patient, and all infected clothing and bedding was passed through the "Disinfector" with a very satisfactory result, as there were no return cases of fever.

26 patients were removed to the Hospital, being six more than in the previous year. 13 were suffering from Scarlet Fever and 13 from Typhoid Fever. Seven were removed from the North Ward, one from the South, ten from the Centre, and eight from the East. There were none from the West. (See Table B). With the four remaining under treatment at the beginning of the year, 30 patients were treated in the Hospital. 25 were discharged cured, and five died, one from Scarlet Fever and four from Typhoid Fever. The Hospital was quite sufficient for the district, and was not required after the end of October.

The question of sewage purification again received the attention of your Council, and new precipitating tanks were built at Hedley Hill Terrace similar to those in use at New Brancepeth and Waterhouses, viz., Cosham's Patent. These tanks are working satisfactorily. Tenders were also accepted for the erection of similar tanks at East New Brancepeth and Langley Moor.

In June your Inspector and I made our annual inspection of cowsheds and dairies, visiting 37 of the former, in which 178 cows were kept. These were on the whole in a very satisfactory state, but some of them required white-washing, and 19 notices were served on the owners, and were complied with. One was found to be too small for the number of cows kept, and the dairy likewise was too small. The owner submitted plans for the enlargement of both, and the alterations were at once made.

Eight plans were submitted and passed for the erection of 16 new houses, and ten were submitted and passed for improvements and alterations to property.

The scavenging of the whole district was again done by contractors, and was well attended to, except at Brandon Colliery, a fact which your Inspector had frequently to report to your Council. Carbolic Powder was used in and about the ashpits after being cleaned out.

In order not to increase the number of privy-middens, which are already too numerous in the district, I would recommend that only plans be passed which provide for the thorough mixing of excreta and ashes. Although

the Typhoid Fever at Brandon Colliery could not be clearly traced to the existing privy-middens, they are objects of suspicion, and have been badly scavenged. Wherever water-closets can be put in they should be.

One notice was served on an owner to abate nuisance arising from want of proper drain in cellar, and one on owner to provide proper privy accommodation. Both were attended to.

156 notices for the removal of nuisances were served, and were attended to.

46 notices were served on owners for back street improvements at Langley Moor, and they are having attention, part of the work being already completed.

Notices were also served on colliery and private owners of Hedley Hill Terrace for street improvements and lighting the same. Most of the work has been done, and is a great improvement.

The whole district is now supplied with good water by the Weardale and Shildon Water Company, except a few isolated farm houses, which draw their supply from springs and wells.

The district is free from common lodging-houses, tenemented property, and offensive trades.

In October the district was divided into five wards instead of three as formerly, and four additional Councillors were added to your number.

The general sanitary condition of the district during the year was very good, and the general health satisfactory. The mortality from all causes was below that in the whole County, except the infant mortality-rate, which is always high, and due to the causes previously stated.

Appended are the Tables A and B, filled in as required, and containing valuable information.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

HENRY SMITH, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Durham, 5th February, 1900.

CHARLES THWAITES, COUNTY PRINTER, MARKET PLACE, DURHAM.

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(A) **TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1899, in the Brandon and Byshottles Urban Sanitary District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.**

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (*Columns for Population and Births are in Table B.*) (*a*)	Mortality from all Causes at subjoined Ages. At all ages. (*b*)	Under 1 year. (*c*)	1 and under 5. (*d*)	5 and under 15. (*e*)	15 and under 25. (*f*)	25 and under 65. (*g*)	65 and upwards. (*h*)	(*i*)	Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age. 1 Smallpox.	2 Scarlatina	3 Diptheria	4 Membranous Croup	5 Fevers. Typhus	6 Enteric or Typhoid	7 Continued	8 Relapsing	9 Puerperal	10 Cholera	11 Erysipelas	12 Measles	13 Whooping Cough	14 Diarrhœa and Dysentery	15 Rheumatic Fever	16 Phthisis	17 Bronchitis Pneumonia and Pleurisy	18 Heart Disease	19 Influenza	20 Injuries	21 All other Diseases	22 Total
NORTH	34	11	6	2	2	7	6	Uuder 5	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	5	15
								5 upwds	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	6	...	...	...	6	14
SOUTH	30	12	5	2	1	8	2	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	12	18
								5 upwds	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	3	...	...	5	13
CENTRE	90	29	9	4	8	28	12	Under 5	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	26	34
								5 upwds	...	..	...	1	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	3	9	...	6	26	53
EAST	57	27	7	1	...	15	7	Under 5	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	...	..	28	36
								5 upwds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	2	2	1	1	15	27
WEST	42	18	...	2	3	12	7	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	18
								5 upwds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	7	1	1	11	25
Totals	253	97	27	11	14	70	34	Under 5	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	3	...	...	20	3	...	...	87	121
								5 upwds	...	...	...	1	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	13	15	21	2	8	63	132

(B) TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1899, in the Brandon and Byshottles Urban Sanitary District, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

THWAITES, PRINTER & STATIONER, DURHAM.

Name of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities. (a)	Population at all Ages. Last Census. (b)	Population at all Ages. Estimated to middle of 1899. (c)	Registered Births. (d)	Aged under 5 or over 5. (e)	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health. 1 Smallpox	2 Scarlatina	3 Diphtheria	4 Membranous Croup.	5 Typhus (Fevers)	6 Enteric or Typhoid (Fevers)	7 Continued (Fevers)	8 Relapsing (Fevers)	9 Puerperal (Fevers)	10 Cholera	11 Erysipelas	12	13	Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital. 1 Smallpox	2 Scarlatina	3 Diphtheria	4 Membranous Croup	5 Typhus (Fevers)	6 Enteric or Typhoid (Fevers)	7 Continued (Fevers)	8 Relapsing (Fevers)	9 Puerperal (Fevers)	10 Cholera	11 Erysipelas	12	13
NORTH				Under 5	...	11	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				5 upwrds	...	6	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SOUTH				Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				5 upwrds	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
CENTRE ... H	14299	16700	520	Under 5	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				5 upwrds	...	1	...	1	...	15	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
EAST				Under 5	...	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				5 upwrds	...	9	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
WEST				Under 5	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				5 upwrds	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	..	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS .				Under 5	...	20	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
				5 upwrds	...	17	1	1	...	25	...	1	...	...	26	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

otification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory and has been since 1891. The Brandon Fever Hospital is situated near Brandon Village.